

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 and 8 contain patentable subject matter.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roth et al. (3,977,907).

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwaizono et al. (6,322, 921).

Analysis

Claim 1 is the only claim in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Claim 1 is directed to a battery comprising a battery body and a single input-output terminal fixed thereto. The terminal includes a positive terminal and a negative terminal which are electrically insulated from each other.

As shown in each of the Figures of the pending application, a single input-output terminal has both a positive and negative terminal. This structure is particularly useful in small sized batteries.

Roth is directed to a battery having separate terminals. Positive and negative output terminals 30, 32 are physically separate, i.e., two separate terminals, and are connected to two separate terminals 26, 28, respectively. Thus, this device suffers from the same shortcomings as the admitted prior art (see Fig. 2A for example).

Iwaizono is directed to a battery also. As illustrated in Fig. 14, the printed board 70 includes a minus terminal connected to flange 64 and a plus terminal connected to flange 67. The battery case 90 includes a positive and negative electrode plate. As mentioned in this reference, the battery case

90 itself may function as the negative terminal. This is similar to the admitted prior art of Figs. 2B or 3 of the pending application.

Neither cited reference actually teaches the feature of the present invention wherein a single input-output terminal has two different polarity terminals insulated from each other.

Thus, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, having a single input-output terminal with two polarities insulated from each other. Thus, claim 1 is patentable.

The remaining rejections are directed to dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Finally, Applicant adds claim 10 which is directed to the physical structure of the terminal. Specifically, the positive and negative terminals are disposed coaxially. This structure is shown in each of the embodiments (see Figs. 5-12). The cited references fail to teach or suggest this feature since the terminals are provided separately rather than coaxially on a single terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 1 is patentable if his point as above is emphasized.

Therefore, according to your comments, please argue that the cited reference fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, having a single input-output terminal with opposite polarities insulated form each other, and emphasize the patentability of Claim 1.

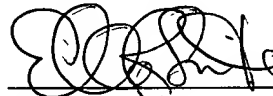
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/739,326

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen R. Smith
Registration No. 43,042

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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